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UAA Mat-Su Home of the Mat-Su College Arctic Dragons

Mat-Su Monitor

MARCH 2026 FREE VOLUME 49 NUMBER 3

Student Government Elections

Getting involved with your student government is a great way to help develop leaderships skills while making a positive impact on campus.

Nominations are open for President, Vice-President and Senator positions.

Application deadline April 2 5pm.

MAT-SU COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE

PUBLIC WELCOME!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 | 2 - 7 PM

8295 E. College Drive, Palmer

EXPLORE OUR CAMPUS :

* **Campus Tours** (Every 30 mins) - See our facilities firsthand.
* **Program Presentations** - Meet faculty and discover patways.
* **Admissions & Financial Aid** - Get 1-on-1 help with FAFSA.
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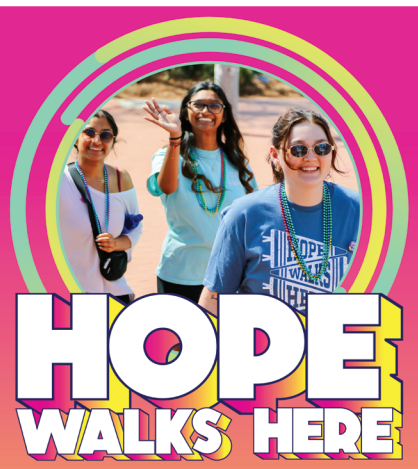

Mat-Su College University of Alaska Anchorage

May 16, 2026
Mat-Su College UAA
afsp.org/matsu

REGISTER TODAY

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention | OUT OF THE DARKNESS Campus Walks

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Students enjoying the Social life at Mat-Su college

Mat-Su Students Get the Inside Scoop on Campus Life

The SGC Ice Cream Social and Club Fair was a great kickoff to the 2026 spring semester here at Mat-Su College. A high-energy "open house" where the MSC Atrium transformed into a buzz of activity. While the draw for many is the free sundae bar—

See **CLUB FAIR** *page 11*

High School to Flight School

By Alana Morgan

"What made you want to become a pilot?"

It's a question I've been asked often—but over time, it's been replaced by another: *How did you do it, and how can I do it too?* For me, that question has become the most important part of my journey. Becoming a pilot was never just about flying; it was about learning how to navigate a complex path—and then helping others do the same.

Like many aspiring pilots, I once believed aviation was an unrealistic dream. Flight training is expensive, the process is complicated, and reliable guidance can be difficult to find. For years, the idea of becoming a pilot sat quietly in the back of my mind, overshadowed by fear of failure. That changed

See **FLIGHT SCHOOL** *page 7*

Rocket Science: Internal Gas Flows with Friction

By Justice A. Darby

FANNO FLOW: AN INTRODUCTION

Internal gas flows with friction, sometimes referred to as Fanno flow, considers the effects of viscous friction on an internal gas flow in a pipe with constant cross-sectional area. While other effects for gas flows exist, like convection, the point of Fanno flow seeks to understand just the effects of frictions. With this in mind, the equation to start with is the differential equation for the Mach number considering the effects of area change, friction, and energy changes:

$$\frac{d(M^2)}{2M^2} = \frac{1+\frac{\gamma-1}{2}M^2}{1-M^2}\left(-\frac{dA}{A}+\frac{\gamma M^2+1}{2}\frac{dT_0}{T_0}+\frac{\gamma M^2}{2}\frac{4\bar{f}}{D_h}dx\right)$$

For considering the Fanno flow model, the effects of area and energy changes are ignored (dA = 0 and dT_0 = 0), reducing Eq. 1 to the following:

$$\frac{d(M^2)}{2M^2} = \frac{1+\frac{\gamma-1}{2}M^2}{1-M^2}\left(\frac{\gamma M^2}{2}\frac{4\bar{f}}{D_h}dx\right)$$

Although complicated, Eq. 2 can be integrated through a method of separation of variables and partial fractions, resulting in:

$$\frac{4\bar{f}}{D_h}L = \frac{1}{\gamma}\left(\frac{1}{M_1^2}-\frac{1}{M_2^2}\right)-\frac{\gamma+1}{2\gamma}ln\left[\frac{M_2^2\left(1+\frac{\gamma-1}{2}M_1^2\right)}{M_1^2\left(1+\frac{\gamma-1}{2}M_2^2\right)}\right]$$

Of interest is determining the length of piping required to reach sonic conditions (i.e. M_2=1 and M_1=M). This simplifies Eq. 3 down to its more commonly seen form:

$$\frac{4\bar{f}}{D_h}L^* = \frac{1-M^2}{\gamma M^2}+\frac{\gamma+1}{2\gamma}ln\left[\frac{\frac{\gamma+1}{2}M^2}{1+\frac{\gamma-1}{2}M^2}\right]$$

ENTROPY: THE DECIDING FACTOR

While the equation for Fanno flow is useful, it

See **ROCKET SCIENCE** *page 11*

Upcoming events:

March 23: fall 2026 registration opens for seniors.

March 24: fall 2026 registration opens for juniors.

March 25: fall 2026 registration opens for sophomores.

March 26: fall 2026 registration opens for freshmen.

March 27: deadline to withdraw from spring 2026 classes.

March 30: fall 2026 registration opens for all others.

March 31, April 21: Student brunch, 10:00-2:00 PM. Free $10 or less meal from the cafeteria. Limit 100 students. WolfCard required.

April 4: Student Showcase, FSM upstairs. 10:00 AM. Come see exceptional student work!

April 7, 14, 21: Yoga in the Glenn Massay Theater lobby. 1:00-2:00 PM.

April 16: spring fling dance. 4-8 PM, cafeteria. Students (and one guest per student) only.

April 22: Mat-Su College Spring Open House. See inside for details!

April 24: deadline to apply for spring graduation.

April 28-May 1: therapy dogs in FSM lobby, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.

May 7: spring 2026 grades available in UAOnline.

May 8: graduation ceremony, Glenn Massay Theater.

May 16: Out of the Darkness Campus Walk, 10:00 AM.

Club meeting times:

Dance: 3:30-5:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cafeteria.

Dungeons and Dragons: 1:00-3:30 PM on Fridays. FSM 205.

JEDI: 1:30-2:30 PM on the third Thursday of every month. JKB 108.

Mat-Su Monitor: 3:00-4:00 PM on Thursdays. Library 214.

Robotics: Meets a lot. See Dan Nichols or the Student Government office for times.

Student Government: 4:00-5:00 PM on Mondays. FSM 106.

Turning Point USA: 6:00-7:30 PM on Thursdays. SNOD 118.

Walking for Hope!

We are gearing up for the 2026 Mat-Su College Out of the Darkness Campus Walk on May 16th. We need to gain sponsors, donors, and walkers, so I was hoping you could share the following message and/or flyer on all social media as much as possible, add it to all calendars, and use any other marketing strategies you can think of. The AFSP will periodically send over new flyers, so I will reach out with new designs for you to share as they become available.

Walking for Hope! Join us for the 2026 Mat-Su Campus Walk!

Get your walking shoes ready! Mat-Su College and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) are teaming up for the 2026 Mat-Su College Out of the Darkness Campus Walk on May 16th. It's going to be a powerful day of community, connection, and hope as we walk together to shine a light on mental health right here in the Valley.

While we're looking forward to a day of togetherness, the reason we walk is deeply important. In Alaska, we face a silent crisis: our state ranks 2nd in the nation for suicide-related deaths. It is the #1 cause of death for young Alaskans (ages 10–24), and every year, we lose 30 of our own neighbors in the Mat-Su Valley alone.

These losses are avoidable, but only if we stop avoiding the conversation. Your involvement can change—and save—lives.

How You Can Help:

Participate: Join us on the pavement! Register to walk with friends, family, or colleagues.

Donate: Your generosity fuels life-saving research and local education programs.

Sponsor: Show the community that your organization stands for mental health awareness.

EVENT SCHEDULE:

DATE: May 16, 2026

CHECK-IN: 10:00 AM

WALK STARTS: 11:00 AM

SIGN UP HERE:

afsp.org/matsu

By donating or participating, you aren't just supporting an event; you are investing in a future where no Alaskan has to struggle in the dark.

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage
2026 STUDENT SHOWCASE
You earned an A!
Enter your work done at Mat-Su College in the Student Showcase for the chance to win prizes.
The 2026 Student Showcase will be held on
Saturday, April 4th, 10:00 am in FSM 206
*Includes work submitted from spring 2025 through spring 2026
Application Deadline: March 6th
Scan the QR code to learn more
Scan Me

Academic Excellence Under Review: Mat-Su College Prepares for 2026 Student Showcase

PALMER, AK — The boxes are in, the files are uploaded, and the stage is set. Following the **March 17th** submission deadline, a distinguished committee of Mat-Su College faculty has begun the rigorous task of reviewing this year's entries for the **2026 Student Showcase.**

The Road to Saturday, April 4

This year's pool of applicants represents the best of Mat-Su College, featuring "A-grade" coursework and substantial club projects from the past three semesters. From scientific research and complex mathematics to visual arts and musical performances, the submissions highlight the diverse talent flourishing in the Valley.

What's Next for Applicants?

The "Review Phase" is currently underway. Faculty committee members are using academic rubrics to score each project based on original thought, technical skill, and presentation potential.

- **The Big Reveal:** Students chosen to present their work will be notified on the evening of **Monday, March 23.**
- **The Final Step:** Those selected will begin preparing for their 10-minute live presentations, which will take place on **Saturday, April 4, in FSM 206.**

A Celebration of Scholarship

The Showcase is more than a competition; it is a professional conference that rewards student dedication. All finalists will have their work published in the **2026 Student Showcase Journal**, ensuring their academic contributions become a permanent part of the college's history.

On the day of the event, an awards luncheon will culminate in the announcement of the three most outstanding presentations. These top achievers will select from a variety of prizes, including the prestigious **3-credit tuition waiver (valued at approximately $700).**

Mark Your Calendars

The community is encouraged to support these scholars as they present their findings and creations.

- **Event Date:** Saturday, April 4, 2026
- **Location:** FSM 206
- **Awards Luncheon:** Held on-site following the presentations.

As the committee deliberates, the campus waits with anticipation to see which "Possibilities" will take center stage this April.

MAT-SU MONITOR STAFF

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Audrey Badger
Micah Muer

Submissions policy

Students are invited to submit articles and letters to the editor to matsu.monitor@alaska.edu or at https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor. The Mat-Su Monitor will not accept anonymous submissions, though with prior arrangement articles of a sensitive nature can appear anonymously. All submissions are subject to editing and will only appear with the approval of the editor.

Disclaimer

The Mat-Su Monitor is the student newspaper of Mat-Su College. The Monitor aims to report college news and serve as a forum for student writing. The Monitor seeks submissions of news, editorials, and short fiction from all students, staff, and faculty of Mat-Su College. All students are invited to attend the Monitor's weekly meetings. Details on participating in or submitting content to the Monitor can be found at https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor

The Mat-Su Monitor is funded by the Mat-Su College Student Government Association and our advertisers. For information on advertising in the Monitor contact Micah Muer at mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

The opinions expressed the Monitor article are solely those of its authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the college, its students and employees, or the wider University of Alaska system.

Student Government Elections

Mat-Su College Wants You... to get the most out of your college experience. Joining student government is a wonderful opportunity to help the community while also helping yourself.

All positions will be up for election. Voting will take place April 13-15, 2026. If you are interested in running, make sure to review the job descriptions in the ASMCS Constitution, complete the online application by 5pm on April 2, 2026. More information on our webpage https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-government/index.cshtml

Criteria for Eligibility:

- Enrollment in at least three credits at Mat-Su College
- Minimum of 2.5 cumulative UAA GPA
- Good disciplinary standing with UA

If you would like to attend a student government meeting, they are currently held every Monday from 4-5 pm in room FSM 106.
Monday from 4pm - 5pm in room FSM 106.

Get involved with your
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Meetings Mondays
4:00 - 5:00 FSM 106

Fueling the Future: Why Mat-Su Students are Fighting to Keep Each Other Fed

TAKE HOME A HEALTHY MEAL TODAY!

On the Mat-Su campus, student leaders are proving that the best way to support a student's GPA is to first support their appetite.

Being a student has never been just about the books. Between rising rents in the Valley and the cost of tuition, many are finding their budgets stretched to the breaking point. That's where the Student Government Council (SGC) is stepping in, transforming "advocacy" from a buzzword into a hot meal.

A Safety Net for the Valley

The "Student Supply Stop" isn't just a pantry; for some, it's a lifeline. Last year, the team distributed 266 meal boxes. This year, they are already over 250 and show no signs of slowing down. Beyond food, they also provide the basics—like hygiene products—that often get cut from a tight budget first.

The impact is best described by the students themselves. One student, balancing a four-class workload with a job after recently moving out, shared: "Thank you for doing this... Having easy-to-make food helps a ton both in utility and cost."

The "Brunch" Effect

The SGC's mission has recently moved from the pantry shelf to the campus café. By providing free meal tickets to any student with an ID, they've seen a massive surge in community connection.

While the cost of the program grew as they upgraded from a $5 breakfast to a more substantial $10 brunch, the 35% jump in attendance proves the need is real. For the organizers, the investment is simple: **a well-fed student is a student who can focus on their future.**

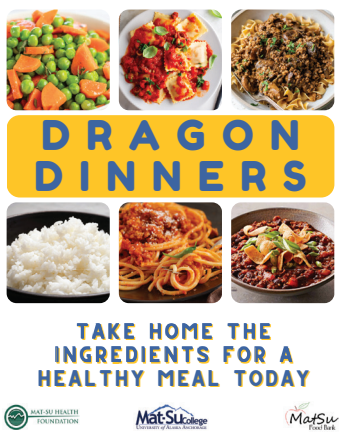
How You Can Help:

• Share the News: If you see a fellow student struggling, remind them that fixing for a hot meal available. The next brunches are scheduled for March 31, and April 21. A valid UAA student I D is required.

• Lend a Hand: Join the SGC to help build more food boxes for the next semester.

• Make a donation at *engage.alaska.edu* to **Mat-Su Student Supply Stop Excellence**

At Mat-Su College, no student should have to choose between a textbook and a dinner. Thanks to the SGC, fewer of them have to.



Let us know what you would like to see in a Dragon Dinner Box

Find more resources at Alaska 211

Members of student government: Isaac Vaughan, Justice Darby, Levi Smith, Yuliya Barashkina, Anastasiia Kalmykova.

Ever felt like you had a great idea to make campus life better? Joining the Student Government Council is how you actually make it happen. It's more than just a meeting; it's your chance to sit at the table with college leadership and the statewide Coalition of Student Leaders to represent every student at MSC.

Between digging into campus policies and creating new opportunities for our student community, we are the bridge between the students and the administration. It's where "someone should do something;' becomes "we are doing something."

Are you eligible? If you're taking at least three credits next semester and pay the student activity fee, you're already halfway there. We need your perspective and your energy to help keep our campus moving forward.

Come hang out with us and see how you can leave your mark on Mat-Su College.

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE
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DATE: JANUARY 27
TIME: 10AM-2PM
LOCATION: MAT-SU CAFE
STUDENT ID REQUIRED
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MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Play an important role on the Mat-Su College Campus. Being on a committee can help to enhance your career, give you a chance to give back to your community, and give you the opportunity to challenge yourself by helping to shape your society.

Join a Mat-Su College Student Government Council Committee

Or join or create a student club

Clubs are a great place to meet like minded people, have fun, learn new things and relax. current and past clubs:

- Table Top Gaming Club
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Math Club
- Bible Club
- ADVET Club
- Human Services
- Gamers Club
- Robotics Club
- Mat-Su Monitor

Joining a committee or club looks good on resumes as well as gives you a chance to connect with fellow students, staff and faculty. You owe it to yourself to try them out. If you don't see a club that interests you, can start one of your own. Student Government will fund you up to $300 to cover expenses. You can pick up a form at the Student Government office in JKB 114, near the café.

04 SUMMER CLASSES

Summer Schedule 2026 May 18 - August 1

ANTHROPOLOGY
*Alaska Native Cultures

ART
Two-Dimentional Design
*Art Appreciation
Introduction to Art Education
*History of Western Art I

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Business Foundations
Fundamentals of Supervision

CHEMISTRY
*General Chemistry I & Lab
*General Chemistry II & Lab

COMMUNICATION
*Fundamentals of Oral Communication

ECONOMICS
*Principles of Macroeconomics

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Child Development and Learning

GEOGRAPHY
*Discover AK Physical Geography

GEOLOGY
*Planet Earth

HISTORY
*Europe in the Modern World
*History of United States
*History of Alaska
*Western Civ. Before 1650

MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS
*Applied College Algebra
*Elementary Statistics
Intermediate Algebra

MEDICAL ASSISTING
Essentials of Human Disease
Your Health & Social Services Career

PHILOSOPHY
*Introduction to Logic
*Introduction to Philosophy

PSYCHOLOGY
*Intro to Psychology
*Lifespan Development
Psychology of Sex & Gender

QUANTITATIVE SKILLS
*College Algebra for Calculus
Elementary Algebra
*Trigonometry

SOCIOLOGY
*Introduction to Sociology

VETERINARY ASSISTING
Veterinary Assistant Practicum

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
Clinical Externship

WRITING
*Writing & the Professions
*Writing Across Contexts

This list is subject to change. Visit matsu.alaska.edu and click "Course Schedules" for the most up-to date schedule.

**Indicates class meets GER requirements*

From the Office of Financial Aid.

- The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and Alaska Education Grant (AEG) FAFSA 2025-2026 deadline is June 30. Complete the FAFSA tinyurl.com/2j69h9ry to automatically apply.
- For VA benefits get your VA Certificate of Eligibility: https://www.va.gov/education/. For more information on your benefits visit www.matsu.alaska.edu and click on "Current Students" then under "Tuition|Finance" choose "Veteran|Military". Be mindful that all students must submit A "Request to be Certified" form each semester.
- The 2025-26 FAFSA application is open for summer classes. The 2026-27 FAFSA is open for Fall at tinyurl.com/2j69h9ry Be sure to complete the application as early as possible to ensure you receive the maximum amount of funding available to you!
- If you still have questions, log in to one of our FAFSA/Financial Aid ZOOM Workshops: https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-services/financial-aid/

Become an Ambassador and Earn a 3-credit tuition Waiver!

Waiver can be used on any Mat-Su College course for up to 2 years.

Hours: A total of 42 hours is required during a 7-week session.

Eligibility: full-time, part-time students, Middle College students

Requirements:
- Must be able to work outside of normal school/office hours
- Must maintain a 2.5 GPA
- Must be able to work off-campus

Contact msc.marketing@alaska.edu to apply!

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

The University of Alaska (www.alaska.edu) is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access Employer andEducational Institution. The University is committed to a policy of non-discrimination (www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination) against individuals on the basis of any legally protected status.

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Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

MAT-SU COLLEGE SPRING OPEN HOUSE!

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

FREE ENTRY!
NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22, 2026
2:00 PM - 7:00 PM
MAT-SU COLLEGE
8295 E. COLLEGE DRIVE
PALMER, AK 99645

MAP!
8295 E. COLLEGE DRIVE
PALMER, AK FSM BUILDING

- **Campus Tours:** See our facilities firsthand.
- **Program Presentations**: Learn about both MSC and UAA academic pathways.
- **Financial Aid From A-Z**: Get expert help navigating the FAFSA and funding.
- **Scholarship Info**: Talk directly with local scholarship and supportive program representatives, as well as MSC financial aid advisors.
- **Admissions Overview**: Get a clear roadmap for the enrollment process and student life.

Questions?
abadger@alaska.edu
dmhaddeland@alaska.edu
(907) 745-9746

Business owners!

The Mat-Su Monitor is a great place to advertise your business or event. The Monitor has a wide circulation, with thousands of copies inserted in the Frontiersman and distributed throughout the Valley. We also have low rates:

Ad Size	Cost
3" by 3"	$75
5" by 5"	$125
7" by 7"	$175
Full page	$300
Full page, back	$375

Moreover, the Monitor runs relatively few ads, which ensures that your ad will stand out. Finally, advertising in the Monitor demonstrates your support for local students. For more on advertising, call 745-9758.

Join a Campus Walk!

By Arlene Culpepper

Every month, a faculty member leads short lunch-hour walks on the campus trail system. Part hike, part tour, these walks are a gentle introduction to one the campus's best-kept secrets: the miles and miles of trails abutting Mat-Su College.

Students, keep an eye on the bulletin boards or the calendar on the website! The walks happen monthly, and the dates are generally advertised well in advance.

The walks are part of a long tradition that dates back to the beginning of the campus student wellness program, Journey, at which time Director Emeritus Talis Colberg led the walks.

head location Student Mat-Su Campus walk around the Crevass -Moraine Trail

MSMCS

MAT-SU MIDDLE COLLEGE
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL WITH UP TO 60 CREDITS!

Priority application period: January 4TH - March 5TH

Family Information Night Webinar posted at https://www.matsuk12.us/domain/6968
Go to matsuk12.us/msm for more information!

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or 907.761.3495
907.761.3498
MSM@matsuk12.us
www.matsuk12.us/msm

Sam Henderson

Flight School *continued from page 1*

after a conversation with a volunteer I worked with at church, who spoke honestly about loving her life while still carrying regrets for dreams she never pursued. That moment clarified something for me: if I didn't try, I would always wonder. I decided to commit fully—not knowing exactly how I would succeed, but determined to figure it out.

Growing up in Alaska, aviation was always present. From bush planes flying overhead to family trips that required air travel, flying was part of daily life. In Alaska, aviation is not a luxury—it is essential. Planes connect remote communities, deliver food and medical supplies, support major industries, and sustain the economy. That reality makes aviation both accessible and intimidating. It's everywhere, yet many people don't know how to enter the field themselves.

My own path began with ground school through Career Tech High School and Blue River Aviation, followed by flight training in a Cessna 172 and earning my private pilot's license. While learning to fly was challenging, learning how to afford and access training proved just as important. High School to Flight School, a volunteer-for-flight program, made all the difference for me. This program involves a one page summary of "why you want to be a pilot", and an online interview. This program is specifically for juniors and seniors in the matsu and anchorage area. This program paid for my in person ground school, textbooks, and 80 percent of my flight hours. In exchange, I volunteered in my community for every hour they paid for. This program was the reason I was able to obtain my pilots license, which is why I tell others about it so they can have the opportunity too.

That experience shaped how I view aviation today. After earning my license, I took a position as a student intake coordinator at Blue River Aviation. In this role, I help prospective students understand what becoming a pilot actually looks like—from choosing a training path to finding financial resources. Many people assume flight training is out of reach, and my goal is to show them that while it is demanding, it is also possible with the right information and support.

I also serve as a recruitment noncommissioned officer with Civil Air Patrol (CAP), a volunteer organization focused on emergency services, aerospace education, and youth leadership. Many cadets join CAP with dreams of becoming pilots, often believing the common misconception that participation guarantees a pilot's license. I'm honest with them: aviation opportunities are competitive and require dedication. But I also emphasize something just as important—there are far more pathways than most people realize. Scholarships, community programs, and nconventional routes can open doors, especially for students who are willing to research, ask questions, and persist.

When I speak to cadets or high school students, I often say, "There are more opportunities than you think." I remember how lost I felt when I started, and how valuable it was to have someone explain the process step by step. Teachers like my ground school instructor, who regularly shared scholarship opportunities and provided mentorship, made a lasting impact on me. Now, I strive to be that person for others.

Teaching others how to pursue aviation has become just as meaningful to me as flying itself. Whether it's explaining how to apply for scholarships, outlining realistic training timelines, or helping students believe they belong in aviation, the goal is the same: to lower the barrier to entry and make the path clearer.

As a high school student, I'm often asked about my future. While my long-term goal is to become a U.S. Air Force search-and-rescue helicopter pilot and later an aerial firefighter, my immediate focus is continuing to learn and helping others get started. The more I grow in aviation, the more responsibility I feel to pass that knowledge forward.

Becoming a pilot was my first milestone—but helping others reach theirs has become my mission. Aviation thrives when experience is shared, guidance is offered, and opportunities are made visible. If I can help someone else take their first step into the cockpit, then every hour spent learning this path has been worth it.

HEALTHCARE WORKERS ARE IN DEMAND!
Many jobs require training but not a degree.
Mat-Su Health Foundation vocational scholarships can help!
MAT-SU HEALTH FOUNDATION
Apply today at healthymatsu.org

Monitor

MEETING TIMES
Wednesdays
3-4 pm OLB 214
upstairs in the Library

Looking For
- Photographers
- Writers
- Reporters
- Marketing Reps
- Cartoonists
- Artists

Now taking submissions:
Next deadline for entries:
April 4

Mat-Su College Dance Club

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

Discover Our New Club

Your Dance Floor Awaits Come Feel it for Yourself

Tuesdays & Thursdays
3:30 - 4:30
MSC Cafe

1st meeting – Easy Steps, Disco & Cha Cha

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Fridays 1 - 3:30pm

Library Rm. 214

Master epic quests and collaborative storytelling! Whether a veteran or beginner, join us to roll dice, forge friendships, and adventure.

Dungeon Masters wanted. Community DND resource file.

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

MSC SGC

Meetings Mondays
4 - 5pm FSM 106

NATIVE INTERVARSITY CLUB

Native InterVarsity
University of Alaska Anchorage

Tuesdays 2:00pm
MSC Cafe

Discover a vibrant community at MSC InterVarsity! We are a multi-ethnic, student-led fellowship dedicated to exploring faith and the Bible in an open, welcoming environment. Whether you are a lifelong believer or just curious about Jesus, join us for weekly gatherings, deep conversations, and genuine friendships that last.

TURNING POINT USA
MAT-SU CAMPUS
CHAPTER MEETINGS ON THURSDAYS 6:00-7:30PM
LOCATION: MAT-SU COLLEGE SNODGRASS HALL (SGH) 118
@TPUSA_MATSU_COLLEGE
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Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

EDUCATION CLUB

We are looking for Mat-Su College students interested in forming an education club.

Contact Asst. Prof. Chelsea Sohm
clsohm@alaska.edu
907-317-1218 (call/text)

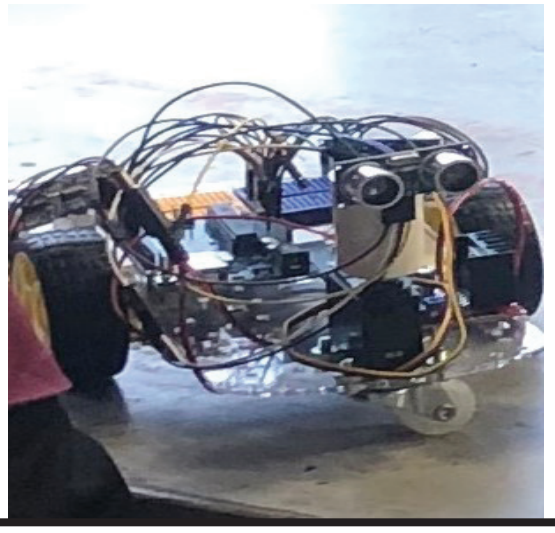
Meet and network with others

Learn more about the field and explore careers in education

Robotics Club

Monday - Wednesday

11:30 AM to 3:30 PM JKB 120.



Mat-Su College / UAA Multicultural Student Services

JOIN THE JEDI ALLIANCE

The JEDI Alliance is a group of student leaders and advocates dedicated to advancing **Justice**, **Equity**, **Diversity**, and **Inclusion** at Mat-Su / UAA. Become an advocate!

Questions? Contact Dr. Jennifer Bernard at jdbernard@alaska.edu

Third Thursday monthly

1:30 - 2:30 pm JKB 108 (March 19, April 16)

ADVET Club

The Arctic Dragon Veterinary Exploration Team is a club focused on exploring the many areas of the veterinary field, working to familiarize its members with what they could expect or what careers exist within. The club is open to members of the MSC Veterinary Assistant Certification and MSC Veterinary Technician programs. We hold meetings **AS NEEDED.**

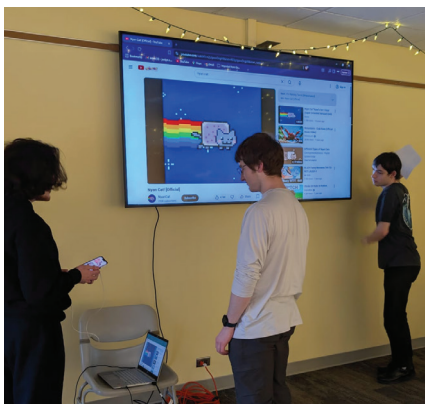
We hope to see you at one of our meetings! If you have any questions, you can contact **Rebecca Walker** at **907-745-9770** or email her at rjwalker6@alaska.edu.

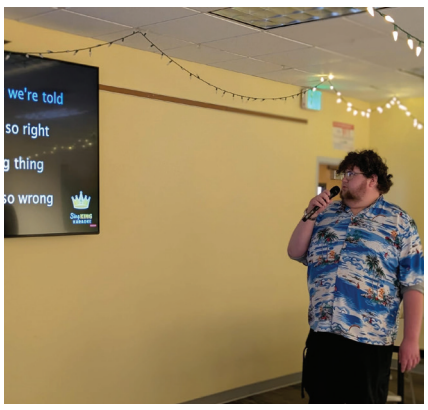
Student Government hosts Karaoke Night!

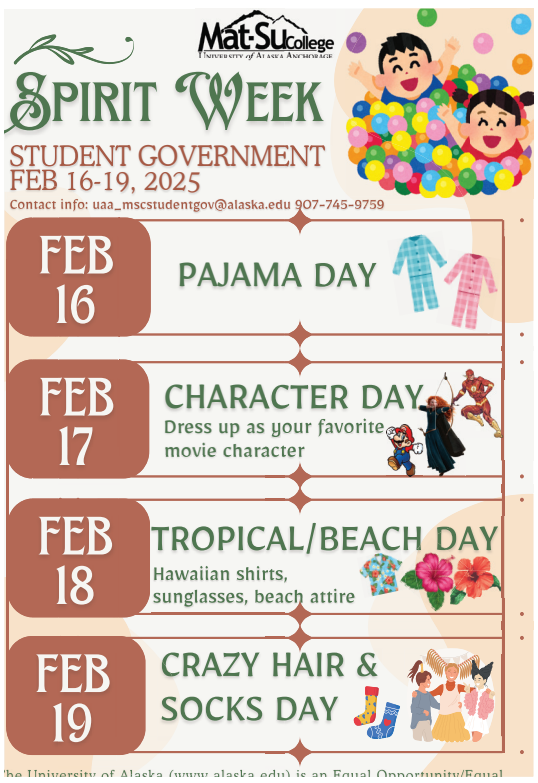
On February 11, the Mat-Su College Student Government Council (SGC) organized a Valentine's karaoke event. The event was held from 4-6 PM in the cafeteria.

Those taking a break from karaoke, or unwilling to try in the first place, could enjoy good company and plenty of free food, including ice cream, Raising Cane's chicken and fries, pop, cheese and veggies, and plenty of other snacks.

This event is just one of many that SGC has and will organize for students this year. To learn about future events, pay attention to bulletin boards around campus. Those especially interested might even consider joining SGC, which is as easy as dropping by their office next to the cafeteria and asking how to get involved!







The Student Government Council (SGC) just wrapped up a high-energy Spirit Week, and the competition was fierce. From the hallways of the JKB to Snodgrass Hall, students traded their usual backpacks and hoodies for creative costumes and "island vibes."

DAY,THEME,WINNER

Monday,Pajama Day: Sofiia Kalmykova

Tuesday,Character Day; Katie Jones

Wednesday,Tropical Day; Joseph Andrews

Thursday,Crazy Hair & Sock Day, Lizzie Bauer

Luck of the Valley: MSC Scavenger Hunt

Can you find the gold? On March 17, Student Government is challenging Mat-Su College students to a campus-wide St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt.

Seven "lost pots of gold" have been hidden across campus. To find them, you'll need to solve a series of riddles that test your knowledge of MSC. Grab your friends, sharpen your wits, and see if you have the luck of the Irish to track down every last pot!

When: Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Where: Across the MSC Campus

Hosted by: MSC Student Government

St Patricks Day
Scavenger Hunt
Join Student Government and solve these riddles to find 7 lost pots of gold around campus!
March 17, 2026

The Great Arctic Dragon Hunt: SGC Hides More Than Just Chocolate This Spring!

Get ready to channel your inner detective, because the Student Government Council (SGC) is turning the Mat-Su Campus into a high-stakes scavenger hunt. From March 30th to April 2nd, it's officially "eyes peeled and coffee in hand" as the annual Easter Egg Hunt takes over every nook and cranny of the college.

We're talking eggs hidden everywhere—from the quiet corners of the library to the busy hallways of the FSM building. And these aren't just your average plastic eggs filled with air; the SGC has packed them with candy, surprises, and the ultimate campus currency: gift cards.

THE HUNT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHEN: Monday, March 30th – Thursday, April 2nd

WHERE: All over the Mat-Su Campus (inside and out!)

THE LOOT:

SWEET TREATS: Classic Easter candy to get you through your afternoon lectures.

SURPRISES: Fun trinkets and MSC swag.

THE GRAND PRIZES: High-value gift cards hidden in select "Golden Eggs."

Spring Has Sprung at Mat-Su: SGC Presents: Spring Fling Prom

Just when the Alaska breakup season starts getting a little gray, the Student Government Council (SGC) is bringing the heat back to campus. Following the massive success of the Ice Cream Social and the prospect of participation in the St. Patricks Day treasure hunt and the high-stakes Easter Egg Hunt, the SGC is trading textbooks for dancing shoes with the annual Spring Fling Dance.

Whether you're looking to celebrate surviving midterms or just need an excuse to dress up and hang out with friends outside of a lab setting, this is the event that officially breaks the winter frost.

The Lowdown on the Night

The Vibe: Think "prom vibes" but way more relaxed. The SGC usually transforms the cafeteria into a full-on party zone with lights, decor, and a playlist that actually hits.

The Refreshments: In true SGC fashion, you can expect a spread of snacks and drinks to keep your energy up between songs.

The Crowd: It's the perfect mix — Middle College students, degree-seekers, and even a few brave faculty members usually stop by to show off their moves.

Ask Sophia

Welcome to Ask Sophia, the Mat-Su Monitor's regular advice column. If you have a question you'd like to see answered, submit it anonymous at https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor or in the Ask Sophia box in the FSM front lobby.

Q. Dear Sophia: It's annoying that the school library isn't open everyday. Also that it closes much earlier than UAA'S library.
Quite an inconvenience.

A. Dear Friend: That is a totally valid frustration. It's tough when you're in the zone and the "closed" sign ruins your momentum—especially when you know the main UAA campus has those late-night hours.

The main reason Mat-Su's library hours feel so different from UAA's (Consortium Library) is funding and footprint. UAA serves a massive population with 24/7-style demands, while MSC is a community campus. Usually, our hours are tied directly to when the Student Assistants and staff are available to work. If they can't staff it, they can't open it.

If the library is closed but you still need to grind, you can hang out in the **Atrium** or try **the bridge** to Snodgrass Hall where there are plenty of tables and power supplies available.

Don't forget that even if our physical doors are locked, you still have 24/7 access to the **Digital Databases**. You can search journals and ebooks from your couch

Want to make a change? The SGC (Student Government Council) may be able to help you out!

The SGC holds regular meetings. If enough students say, "We need Saturday hours," they can take that data to the administration.

They also have a Suggestion Box outside their office JKB 114. Administrative decisions on hours are often based on "demonstrated need"—if no one complains, they assume the current hours are fine.

Q. Dear Sophia: Why is my sister so stinky?

A. Dear Friend: Listen, little hatchling, as a dragon who spent three hundred years sleeping on a pile of gold in a damp cave, I know a thing or two about "pungent environments." But even a beast with fire in its belly understands that a sister's scent can sometimes be more lethal than a knight's lance.

Before you set her laundry on fire (tempting, I know), let's look at why your fellow nest-mate is currently smelling like a swamp-troll's gym bag.

First of all there is the **Curse of the "Hormone-Flame"** When humans hit that middle-college age, their internal furnaces start roaring. This "puberty" business causes the apocrine glands to leak a thick, fatty fluid. By itself, it's harmless. But the tiny, invisible scavengers—the bacteria—feast on it. The smell isn't her; it's the bacteria's victory lap.

The next pitfall is, of course, **Hoarding the Wrong Fabrics** Is she wearing those "athleisure" scales made of polyester? Big mistake. Synthetic fibers are like a dragon's cave with no ventilation—they trap the dampness and the stink. Encourage her to wear cotton, the fabric of the wise, which lets the skin breathe like a cool mountain breeze.

Did you know that your Student Government Council is currently hoarding something better than gold? They hand out deodorant, soap, and other hygeine products. I've seen the hoard in JKB 114. If you don't want to hurt her feelings, tell her you found a "mystical artifact" (a stick of Old Spice) in the SGC giveaway basket and thought she'd like to try it.

Do not **roar** at her. It only makes the nest more stressful. Instead, use your cunning. Slide a care package into her room and tell her it's "campus swag." If that fails, I'll lend you my tail to fan the air, but I make no promises about the singe marks. free deodorant and hygiene kits on campus. Tell her you thought it was "cool" and grabbed one for her.

The Laundry Hint: Offer to do a load of "whites" or "towels" and suggest adding a bit of white vinegar to the wash—it's a miracle worker for stripping smells out of clothes.

Ahhhh COLLEGE

A	R	C	T	I	C	D	R	A	G	O	N	C	Y	V
S	O	C	L	U	B	S	T	R	A	I	L	S	R	E
O	B	W	A	S	I	L	L	A	O	M	E	P	A	T
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H	T	T	S	S	E	N	I	S	U	B	D	U	B	R
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C	S	T	U	D	E	N	T	C	S	N	T	N	E	R
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V	A	L	L	E	Y	F	I	R	E	W	E	E	D	U

Circle the words from the list below. Place the leftover letters in the spaces for a special message!

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Rocket Science *continued from page 1*

does not explain critically what direction the flow trends at certain conditions. Will the flow Mach number slow down or speed up? Friction, in a traditional sense, typically slows down a moving object. Does this logic still apply to gas flows? This can be determined by analyzing the gas flow's entropy.

Entropy explains the order a system is in and the direction a system heads in. Entropy equalizes to a system as unorganized as possible. The higher the entropy, the more disorganized the overall system is. This shows that an analysis of finding the maximum entropy requires finding the equilibrium point in which the entropy cannot change and go higher.

For a flow with friction, the change in

$$Tds = v^2\frac{d\rho}{\rho} - \frac{dp}{\rho}$$

entropy is expressed in Eq. 5:
Assuming no more changes in entropy can occur (ds = 0), and reorganizing for v^2 gives:

$$v^2 = \frac{dp}{d\rho}$$

From gas dynamics, dp/d is the square of the speed of sound, a^2. Reducing the result down to:

$$v^2 = a^2$$

From this result, it can be shown that the point of highest entropy will occur at the speed of sound of the gas or when the Mach number is 1, meaning all gas flows approach their speed of sound. From this result, a subsonic flow will speed up while a supersonic flow will slow down to the speed of sound.

CHANGES IN STATE: THE DIFFERENCES FRICTION CAUSES

Due to the compressibility of a gas, the pressure, temperature, and density change with Mach number. Relations can be derived from the following equations:

Conservation of Mass

$$\dot{m} = \rho_1 v_1 A_1 = \rho_2 v_2 A_2$$

Conservation of Energy

$$T_0 = T\left(1 + \frac{\gamma - 1}{2}M^2\right)$$

Ideal Gas Law (Assuming no change in T_0)

$$\frac{p_{01}}{\rho_{01}} = \frac{p_{02}}{\rho_{02}}$$

Isentropic Relations

$$\frac{T_2}{T_1} = \left(\frac{p_2}{p_1}\right)^{\frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma}} = \left(\frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1}\right)^{\gamma-1}$$

and reorganized to give the following analyzed at the speed of sound:

Temperature Ratio

Pressure Ratio

$$\frac{T}{T^*} = \frac{\frac{\gamma+1}{2}}{1 + \frac{\gamma-1}{2}M^2}$$

$$\frac{p}{p^*} = \frac{1}{M}\sqrt{\frac{\frac{\gamma+1}{2}}{1 + \frac{\gamma-1}{2}M^2}}$$

Velocity and Density Ratios

$$\frac{v}{v^*} = \frac{\rho^*}{\rho} = M\sqrt{\frac{\frac{\gamma+1}{2}}{1 + \frac{\gamma-1}{2}M^2}}$$

Total Pressure and Total Density Ratios

$$\frac{p_0}{p_0^*} = \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_0^*} = \frac{1}{M}\left(\frac{1 + \frac{\gamma-1}{2}M^2}{\frac{\gamma+1}{2}}\right)^{\frac{\gamma+1}{2(\gamma-1)}}$$

USEFULNESS OF THE THEORY AND ITS SHORTCOMINGS

While the above results and their relations are intriguing, what usefulness does this have in actual practice? In short, its main applications are most useful when analyzing gas flows where the difference in temperature between the gas and the environment and/or any energy loss can be neglected. Examples of this come in the form of gas flows in HVAC systems, pneumatics, gas lines, and so on. Primarily, the application has to be to a system where the internal cross-sectional area of the pipe or duct remains constant.

The biggest issue with the theory is that its initial assumption is often unrealistic. Internal duct flow, assuming the cross-sectional area remains constant, has other effects to consider. Of these effects, energy loss is the other largest and most dominant form of loss in most systems. Energy loss in gas flows is covered in Rayleigh flow where friction is ignored instead.

NOMENCLATURE

Symbol	Meaning
A	Cross-Sectional Area (m^2)
a	Speed of Sound (m/s)
D	Diameter (m)
f	Fanning Friction Factor
L	Pipe/Duct Length (m)
M	Mach Number
$\dot{m}$	Mass Flow Rate (kg/s)
p	Pressure (pa)
s	Specific Entropy (J/kg K)
T	Temperature (K)
v	Velocity (m/s)
x	Length (m)

Greek Symbols

ρ	Density (kg/m^3)
γ	Specific Heat Ratio

Subscripts

0	Total Conditions
1	Start Condition
2	End Condition
h	Hydraulic

References:

Zucker, R. D., Biblarz, O. (2002). Fundamentals of Gas Dynamics (2nd ed.). John Wiley & Sons.

Club Fair *continued from page 1*

complete with a variety of toppings provided by the Student Government Council—the real value lies in the show of club tables. From technical groups like the Robotics Club to social outlets like the Tabletop Gaming or Dungeons and Dragons clubs, it's the primary way for students to find their "tribe" and combat the isolation that can sometimes come with a commuter campus.

Beyond just signing up for a mailing list, the event serves as a bridge between the student body and the SGC leadership. It offers a casual environment for students to voice their concerns, learn how their student fees are being spent, and find out how to run for a **senate seat** themselves. By combining the social incentive of free food with the practical goal of campus involvement, the fair successfully turns the often-intimidating process of "getting involved" into a fun, low-pressure afternoon that helps new and returning Arctic Dragons feel at home

Advertisers Sought!

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My Mental Health: Do I need Help?

First, determine how much your symptoms interfere with your daily life.

Do I have severe symptoms that have lasted 2 weeks or more?

- Feeling a little down
- Feeling down, but still able to do your job, schoolwork, or housework
- Some trouble sleeping
- Feeling down, but still able to take care of yourself or take care of others

Do I have severe symptoms that have lasted 2 weeks or more?

- Difficulty sleeping
- Appetite changes that result in unwanted weight changes
- Struggling to get out of bed in the morning because of mood
- Difficulty concentrating
- Loss of interest in things you usually find enjoyable
- Unable to perform usual daily functions and responsibilities
- Thoughts of death or self-harm

If so, here are some self-care activities that may help:

- Exercising (e.g., aerobics, yoga)
- Engaging in social contact (virtual or in person)
- Getting adequate sleep on a regular schedule
- Eating Healthy
- Talking to a trusted friend or family member
- Practicing meditation, relaxation, and mindfulness

If the symptom(s) do not improve or seem to be worsening despite self-care efforts, talk to your health care provider.

Seek professional help:

- Psychotherapy (talk-therapy)—virtual or in person; individual, group or family
- Medications
- Brain stimulation therapies
- For help finding treatment, visit www.nimh.nih.gov/findhelp.

If you are in a crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988.

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- Veterinary Technology

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